

Senate File 2319 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2319
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2070)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to improving student literacy skills, including
2 addressing dyslexia, and providing teacher assistance.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph c,
2 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (e), Code 2014, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (e) Professional development strategies and materials to
5 support teacher effectiveness in student literacy development.
6 The center shall collaborate and coordinate with the area
7 education agencies to develop and offer to school districts at
8 no cost professional development services to enhance the skills
9 of elementary teachers in the use of evidence-based strategies
10 to improve the literacy skills of all students.

11 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph d,
12 subparagraph (3), subparagraph division (a), Code 2014, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (a) Assists students assessed as exhibiting a substantial
15 deficiency in reading to develop the skills to read at
16 grade level. Assistance shall include but not be limited to
17 strategies that formally address dyslexia, when appropriate.
18 For purposes of this subparagraph division (a), "dyslexia" means
19 a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin
20 and is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent
21 word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities.
22 These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the
23 phonological component of language that is often unexpected in
24 relation to other cognitive abilities. Secondary consequences
25 may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced
26 reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and
27 background knowledge.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill relates to improving student literacy skills,
32 including addressing dyslexia, and providing teacher
33 assistance.

34 Currently, the Iowa reading research center is required
35 to provide for development and dissemination of professional

1 development strategies and materials to support teacher
2 effectiveness in student literacy development. The bill
3 requires the center to collaborate and coordinate with the area
4 education agencies to develop and offer to school districts at
5 no cost professional development services to enhance the skills
6 of elementary teachers in the use of evidence-based strategies
7 to improve the literacy skills of all students.

8 School districts are currently required to establish a
9 reading enhancement and acceleration development initiative
10 that assists students assessed as exhibiting a substantial
11 deficiency in reading to develop the skills to read at grade
12 level. The bill requires such assistance to include but not
13 be limited to strategies that formally address dyslexia, when
14 appropriate. The bill defines "dyslexia".